IFLA's ISBD Programme: Purpose, Process, and Prospects

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- International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD) nearly 35 years old
- IFLA's most successful effort at promoting the cause of cataloguing standardization.
  - Demands and opportunities arising from the automation of bibliographic control

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- Economic necessity of sharing cataloguing

- Standardization of descriptive cataloguing an economic and technological necessity in the creation, conversion, and use of machine-readable records

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- The ISBDs – serve as principal component of IFLA's Universal Bibliographic Control:

  - "to make universally and promptly available, in a form which is internationally acceptable, basic bibliographic data for all publications issued in all countries"

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- The ISBDs seek to serve three primary purposes:

  - First, they are intended to make it possible to interchange records from different sources.

  - Secondly, they have assisted in the interpretation of records across language barriers

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- The ISBDs primary purposes:

  - Thirdly, they have facilitated the conversion of bibliographic records to electronic form.

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- 1971—*International Standard Bibliographic Description for Monographic Publications (ISBD (M))*

- ISBDs for Serials, Non-book material, Cartographic materials, Rare books, Printed music, and, most recently Electronic resources

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- For article level publications, *Guidelines for the application of the ISBDs to the description of component parts* was issued.

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- The entire inventory of the ISBDs in all their editions is listed on IFLANET

- The latest version of each ISBD is freely available in an HTML or PDF format

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- General framework to which all the ISBDs conform –ISBD(G)

  - The primary utility of G is that of ensuring harmony among the other ISBDs

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- Schedule and procedures for issuance of new or revised ISBDs

  - 5-year cycle –revised to as needed
    - ISBD(ER)
    - ISBD for continuing resources

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- There are five phases in the development of a new and revised ISBD
  - Creation of draft text
  - Worldwide review
  - Final revision
  - Balloting
  - Publication and workshop

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- Two overall revision campaigns affecting the entire Family of ISBDs
  - Across-the-board effect

- 1st General review Project 1989
  - Harmonize provisions, for increased consistency
  - Improve examples
  - Applicable to cataloguers working with materials published in non-roman scripts

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- 2nd General Review Project 1998

  - ISBD Review Group Reconstituted to initiate a full-scale review of the ISBDs in order to implement FRBR's recommendations for basic level national bibliographic record

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- 2nd General Review Project 1998

  - Main task —close look at the mandatory ISBD data elements in order to make optional any that are also optional in FRBR

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- ISBD Review Group has completed work on three of the ISBDs – ISDB(M), ISBD(CR) and ISBD(G)

  - Current projects have been put on hold for one year, pending development of the consolidated version of the ISBDs

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- Necessary for IFLA to continue to keep the Family of ISBDs abreast of current requirements

  - In cooperation with national bibliographic agencies and national and multi-national cataloguing committees

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- Current priorities and activities
  - Terminology ISBDs vs FRBR

    - Problem –terms used in FRBR defined in the context of an entity-relationship model (higher level of abstraction than ISBDs)

    - Relationships are too complex to be conveyed through a simple substitution of terminology

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- **Current priorities and activities**

  - *"Mapping ISBD Elements to FRBR Entity Attributes and Relationships"* available on IFLA's Web site

  - URL: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/pubs/ISBD-FRBR-mappingFinal.pdf

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- **Current priorities and activities**
  - **Some terminology changed in 2003**

    - ISBD(G): use of the term "resource" rather than "item" or "publication"

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- **Current priorities and activities**

  - **Investigating three topics:**
    - Use of multiple ISBDs and use of multiple general material designations ([GMDs]),

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- **Investigating three topics:**
  - The order in which elements for multiple formats should be treated, and
  - The number of bibliographic records to be created for multiple versions

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- **Material Designation Study Group, to develop an outline of problems and issues and consider relevant developments arising from revision of AACR (a recommendation from WG5 of the IME ICC1)**

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- **Discussions on two issues:**
  - Placement of the general material designation [GMD]

  - Identification, clarification, and definition of content and nomenclature of the GMD, area 3, area 5, and area 7

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- Study Group statement, approved by the Review Group at Oslo 2005:
  - "Recognizing the ongoing difficulties with the current optionality, terminology, and location/placement of the general material designation [GMD] … Study Group proposes the creation of a separate, unique, high level component … – a "content/carrier" or "content/medium" designation that would be mandatory for recording in bibliographic records.

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- Statement continued …
  - "The Material Designation Study Group emphasizes that this component is independent of system displays – that is, different systems can display the recorded content of the "content/carrier" or "content/medium" designation as each system vendor or client institution determines appropriate …"

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- Benefits from proposal:
  - a separate, unique, distinct component with explicit important information regarding the content and medium of a resource

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- Benefits from proposal:
  - Order and location of the component not specified allowing flexibility as to how the "content/carrier" (or "content/medium") information displays
  - Via "document type definition" elements ordered according to style sheet specifications

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- Creation of a unique component, with specification of its content, will help to focus the content of area 3, area 5, and to some extent, area 7
- Terminology within each element more precise and distinct, addressing current problems with information overlap across related areas

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- Encourage rethinking of the numbering, naming, defining, and ordering of data elements for the future consolidated ISBD

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- The Material Designation Study Group will work closely with the Future Directions Study Group, and will also liaise with the JSC appointed GMD/SMD Working Group whose initial report is expected shortly

- Tom Delsey, editor of *Resource Description and Access* (RDA) to be consulted as appropriate

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- The review group in 2002 established –ISBD Series Study Group

- To clarify the purpose of area 6 in relation to area 1 in ISBD(CR) and ISSN: identification or transcription

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- ISBD series study group

  - To verify compatibility of sources of information recommended or prescribed in ISBDs for area 6 and for area 1 in ISBD(CR) and ISSN

  - To propose a common phrasing for area 6 in all ISBDs

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- The Study Group investigating problems related to sources of information (area 6)
- Regarding series and sub-series practices among national bibliographic agencies

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- 2003 Study Group to determine feasibility of:
  - Consolidating the ISBDs
  - Merging the stipulations that applied to all resources
  - Providing for additional stipulations for individual resources

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- 2003 Study Group Objectives:

  - Prepare a consolidated, updated ISBD from specialized ISBDs

  - Provide consistent stipulations for description of all types of resource; specific stipulations for specific types of resources

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- Principles:
  - The primary purpose of the ISBD – provide stipulations for compatible descriptive cataloguing worldwide
    - facilitate international exchange of bibliographic records
  - The elements needed to identify a resource uniquely must be specified

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- Principles (cont.)
  - National bibliographies and agencies will provide stipulations needed for university and other research collections
  - Sufficient descriptive information to enable access and retrieval and use of the resource must be provided

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- Principles:
  - Core set of elements of information rather than the display or use of those elements in a specific automated system will provide the focus
  - Cost effective practices must be considered

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- Agreement/recommend that:
  - Structure should be changed
  - Present stipulations should fit into the new structure

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- Agreement/recommend that:
  - Changes will be made due to the need to generalize wording
  - GMD should be moved from after the title proper to another location

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- Agreement/recommend (cont.):
  - Published (validated) versions will be used as the basis on which to work at the first stage
  - Changes to stipulations can be made at a later stage

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- Timeline for preparing a full proposal for harmonization of the published ISBDs

- Meeting of the Study Group membership planned for early April 2006 at the DDB

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- Work on ISBD(ER)/ISBD(CM) postponed until summer 2006

  - Ensure that Future Directions SG is able to focus on task of harmonizing existing, validated ISBDs and work on updating stipulations

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- Future directions study group will take into account provisions of the drafts of ISBD(ER) and ISBD(CM) during this phase

- Contact IAML-ISBD for music aspects of the ISBDs

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- Surveys comparing national and multinational cataloguing codes for the IME ICC show that ISBDs used extensively as the basis for bibliographic description – very little modification

- The Review Group will work with authors of national cataloguing codes to improve the ISBDs

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- Effective working relationship with the Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR on matters of mutual interest

- Collaborations, development, and maintenance of ISBDs and energy devoted to projects depend on the efforts of individual experts

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- Thanks to them the ISBDs are IFLA's premier accomplishments in the area of cataloging.

- Thank you for your attention and participation at this IME ICC3!